



CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT
& HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

Week of Sep 12, 2005

HONG KONG

Legionnaires' Disease Reported in Hong Kong

The Center for Health Protection in Hong Kong has confirmed a case of Legionnaire's Disease. The victim, a 60-year-old man, brings the country's total number of cases this year [2005] to eight. The man was admitted to a hospital on 18 August [2005] after coming down with a fever two days earlier, and discharged on 5 September [2005]. No one close to the victim has displayed symptoms of the disease.

Source:

· News.gov.uk, Sep 12, 2005, <http://www.news.gov.hk/en/category/healthandcommunity/050912/html/050912en05008.htm>

INDIA

India's Encephalitis Toll Expected to Rise

Presently over 3,000 people are infected with Japanese Encephalitis in the northern region of Uttar Pradesh, India. Over 700 people have died over the past few weeks from the disease, while Uttar Pradesh health officials predict the death toll may reach 2,000 by the end of December [2005]. The current death toll is said to be high since victims, mostly impoverished children, often die before they are brought to hospitals for treatment. To help fight the epidemic, health workers are distributing medicated mosquito nets and fogging mosquito areas. Piggeries are also being moved out of the villages. The current outbreak could have been prevented or lessened with vaccines, but Uttar Pradesh failed to take preventative measures such as holding a vaccination campaign for children. The current epidemic is the most serious in India in over 30 years.

Source:

· Reuters Foundation AlertNet, Sep 13, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/DEL266494.htm>

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COEDMHA's Pacific Disaster Management Information Network (PDMIN) team surveys, compiles and disseminates news reports from various publicly available newswires, websites, and health information networks including but not limited to the World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and ProMed. Some information is presented in its original version. The information contained herein does not necessarily represent the views of the COEDMHA.

· News24.com, Sep 13, 2005, http://www.news24.com/News24/World/News/0..2-10-1462_1769771.00.html
 · Times of India, Sep 13, 2005, <http://www1.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/1228672.cms>
 · Reuters, Sep 15, 2005, http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2005-09-15T073942Z_01_HO527596_RTRIDST_0_INTERNATIONAL-INDIA-DC.XML&archived=False

Undiagnosed Disease Spreads in India

An undiagnosed disease is spreading rapidly in many villages in the Tamei region of Manipur, India (eastern region). The symptoms of the disease are similar to malaria, but also include swelling and indigestion. The disease has prevented children from attending school and farmers from working in their fields. No measures have been taken by the government or NGO's.

Source:

· Kanglaonline, Sep 11, 2005, <http://www.kanglaonline.com/index.php?template=headline&newsid=25990&typeid=1>

Dengue Fever Continues to Spread in India

During the past month, over 1,000 cases and 18 deaths from dengue fever have been reported in West Bengal, India. The spread of the dengue is being blamed on people's lack of awareness and ignorance for the mosquito-borne disease. Although many children show signs of dengue, including high fever, muscle and joint pains and vomiting, many parents are not getting their children tested for the disease. Many doctors are working to inform the people and increase awareness: municipal works are checking Delhi for stagnant water and fogging mosquito-populated areas. Local authorities are running an advertising campaign to promote dengue awareness.

Source:

· 12 September 2005, http://english.people.com.cn/200509/12/eng20050912_208032.html
 · NDTV.com, Sep 13, 2005, <http://www.ndtv.com/template/template.asp?template=Health&slug=Lack+of+awareness+spurs+dengue+spread&id=78675&callid=1&category=National>

INDONESIA

Indonesia Successful in Polio Vaccination Campaign

Although the number of children infected with polio continues to increase, the Indonesian government has reported that the national polio vaccination campaign, which started on 30 August [2005], has been successful. Over 95% of the targeted children under five-years have been vaccinated, representing 22.1 million out of 23.31 million children. Parents are urged to take their children to get the second vaccination on 27 September [2005], especially in the Papua province where only 64.8% of children were treated. Indonesia hopes the second round of vaccinations will reach 100% of their target and make the country polio-free by 2008. About 100 million children were not vaccinated in the June campaign due to rumors of the vaccine causing the death of four children. In the past six months, 236 children under five years have been infected with polio.

Source:

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· Xinhuanet.com, Sep 13, 2005, http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-09/13/content_3483524.htm
· The Jakarta Post, Sep 13, 2005, <http://www.thejakartapost.com/detailnational.asp?fileid=20050913.C04&irec=3>

Avian Influenza in Indonesia

A 37-year-old woman in Jakarta died from pneumonia and flu-like respiratory problems. It is highly suspected that avian influenza was the cause of death. If it is confirmed, this will be the fourth recorded death from avian influenza in Indonesia. The woman was an immigration agent and comes in contact with many expatriates. She also lived near a chicken slaughterhouse, but rarely had contact with animals. Because health officials do not know how the victim was infected, her contacts and recent activities are being investigated. Indonesian authorities are not following World Health Organization (WHO) warnings of a potential avian influenza epidemic and orders to cull chickens. WHO recommends that measures for improved bio-security, hygiene and species segregation be implemented.

Source:

· ProMed-mail, Sep 11, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1329283286113977926::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30377
· ProMed-mail, Sep 12, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1329283286113977926::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,30369
· Reuters Foundation AlertNet, Sep 12, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/JAK240815.htm>

NEPAL

Over 200 Dead in Nepal from Japanese Encephalitis

Japanese encephalitis has taken the lives of more than 200 people in Nepal, and has affected over 800 additional people. Health workers believe the actual toll may be higher since many cases are unreported and government reports only include deaths at public hospitals. Children and elders from impoverished families are the majority of the victims. The Assistant Health Minister has stated that the country does not have enough vaccines and is working on importing supplies from China. Medical teams and 60,000 mosquito nets have been sent to affected areas. Compared to other mosquito-bred diseases such as malaria, awareness of Japanese encephalitis in Nepal is low.

Source:

· ProMed-mail, Sep 09, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:1329283286113977926::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,30348
· Khaleej Times Online, Sep 13, 2005, http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/subcontinent/2005/September/subcontinent_September501.xml§ion=subcontinent&col=

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PHILIPPINES

Woman Dies from Suspected Meningococcemia in Philippines

A woman from the Nueva Ecija province (eastern region) of the Philippines died from suspected meningococcemia on 10 September [2005]. The victim was a vegetable retailer. Antibiotics have been rushed to the town as citizens fear the spread of infection. This is the sixth case of the disease in Central Luzon. Officials are not commenting on this recent infection. Local governments are also on alert for dengue fever and ways to stop the spread of dengue infection.

Source:

· The Manila Times, Sep 16, 2005, <http://www.manilatimes.net/national/2005/sept/16/yehey/prov/20050916pro4.html>

Dengue Fever Toll Increases in Philippines

Although the Philippines has been on national alert for dengue fever since 15 August [2005], more people continue to be infected. Since 11 August [2005], the disease has led to 70 deaths, increasing the year's death toll to 259. A total of 18,802 have been infected with dengue since 11 September [2005]. Local governments were ordered to promote educational campaigns, provide efficient diagnosis and treatment, eradicate mosquito populations and obtain sufficient blood supplies for transfusions. Various factors, such as the mismanagement of cases at hospitals and late referrals to doctors, may have led to the increase in deaths last month. Officials at the National Epidemiology Center advised that the best way to stop the spread of the disease is to eliminate potential mosquito breeding areas.

Source:

· Manila Times, Sep 16, 2005, http://www.manilatimes.net/national/2005/sept/16/yehey/top_stories/20050916top8.html

SINGAPORE

Dengue Fever Outbreak in Singapore

It is estimated that over 100 new cases of dengue fever are now being reported every day in Singapore. This current outbreak is considered the country's worst health crisis since the 2003 SARS outbreak. Officials are working to hasten progress on their campaign to stop the spread of the disease. Because a vaccine for dengue does not exist, mosquito eradication is the only way to wipe out the disease. This weekend, teams of workers will comb the streets to destroy mosquito-breeding grounds. There have been over 9,000 people infected with the disease and eight deaths this year [2005]. Last year [2004], Singapore had a record 9,459 cases and eight deaths from the disease. The Health Minister has requested citizens to postpone non-urgent surgery to reduce the strain on public hospitals.

Source:

· Gulf Daily News, Sep 12, 2005, <http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/Story.asp?Article=121750&Sn=WORLD&IssueID=28176>
· Reuters Foundation AlertNet, Sep 14, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/SIN285331.htm>

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Other World News

WORLD

WHO Prepares World for Avian Influenza Outbreak

WHO is stating that an outbreak of avian influenza among humans is forthcoming, but there is still time to prepare for the epidemic to help save lives. WHO is urging all governments to implement emergency public health measures to help lower mortality and morbidity, and social and economic interference. WHO and other officials worry that the avian influenza strain will mutate or mix with human flu to form a deadly pandemic strain that would spread quickly across the world. It is estimated that there will be 25 million hospital admissions and 7 million deaths around the world in a short time. Only 40 of the 192 WHO member states have epidemic preparedness plans. The WHO has secured a donation of Tamiflu from Roche, a Swiss drug company, to treat 3 million people.

Source:

· Reuters Foundation AlertNet, Sep 13, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L06656136.htm>

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